

DECKER -
Clough House (Marie Antoinette House)
N. Edgecomb, Maine

HABS-ME-54

HABS
ME

8-EDCO,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

"CLOUGH HOUSE"HABS
ME(Marie Antoinette House)
Edgecomb, Lincoln County, Maine

8-Edco

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Date of Erection

1774

Builder

Captain Joseph Decker

Present Condition

This house was built on Squam Island and was moved on flat boats across the river to the opposite shore of Edgecomb in 1838. Windows have been altered on the front of the house and a side porch has been added.

Description

Two story square frame house with hip roof and central chimney. The house rests on a foundation of granite.

Other Existing Records

"Old Colonial Houses in Maine" by Emma Huntington Nason. (pages 100 and 101).

Additional Data

Captain Stephen Clough purchased the house from Captain Joseph Decker in 1792.

There is an interesting legend of Queen Marie Antoinette of France connected with this house. Captain Clough happened to be on the coast of France in 1793, and the story goes that a plan was made to save the life of Marie Antoinette by bringing her to America to Captain Clough's house. It is said that some articles of furniture and part of the queen's wardrobe were placed on board the ship but the queen was arrested before she boarded the ship. She was delivered to the revolutionists. Although the unfortunate queen never came to occupy her place of refuge in America, the house is commonly referred to as the "Marie Antoinette House". It is said that some of the royal furniture came safely into Wiscasset in Captain Clough's ship. Among the treasures said to have been brought here are silverware, vases and furniture. Captain Clough, who is supposed to have been present at the execution of the queen, is said to have brought back a scrap of the queen's white death robe.

Captain Clough's wife made herself a satin dress from a robe once worn by Louis XVI.

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Some the relics are still said to be in the possession of Clough descendants.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Joseph J. Jannell

June 22, 1937

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7/28/37